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EXAMINER	
MARSH, OLIVIA MARIE	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2686	

DATE MAILED: 09/08/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/099,640	NAJAFI, HAMID	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Olivia Marsh	2686	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *01 September 2004*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *31* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *31* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 10, 11, 12, 21, 22, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Beeson (U.S. Patent 6,038,438).

Regarding claim 1, Beeson discloses a method of receiving a first message beacon activation command (see column 7, lines 24-26) and activating a beacon given the command in (see column7, lines 24-26; see also column 4, lines 38-54 and Figure 4B).

Regarding claim 10, Beeson also discloses the first message received includes a SMS text message (see column 6, lines 1-3 and column 5 lines 30-33).

Regarding claim 11, Beeson continues to disclose a wireless phone (24) comprising a means for receiving (54) a first message having a first beacon activation command and a means for activating (50) a beacon per the command (see column 2, lines 32-36).

Regarding claim 12, Beeson discloses the steps of the method as applied above to claim 1 and additionally discloses when a microprocessor (50) performs the method; thus inherently using a computer-readable medium for storing instructions (see column 4, lines 38-39 and 49-53).

Regarding claim 21, Beeson discloses the steps of the method as applied above to claim 1, a microprocessor that performs the method as applied above to claim 12, and additionally

discloses an emergency radio beacon activation signal entailing SMS text message (see column 6, lines 1-3 and column 9, lines 1-3).

Regarding claim 22, Beacon discloses a wireless phone (Figure 2) comprising a microprocessor (50), communicatively coupled to a radio transceiver (54), capable to receive, from a source, a first message having a first beacon activation command via the transceiver; and a an emergency radio beacon signal generator (60), communicatively coupled to the microprocessor (50) and to the radio transceiver (54), capable to transmit a beacon via the radio transceiver upon receipt of a emergency beacon activation command (see column 4, lines 38-54).

Regarding claim 31, Beacon discloses a wireless phone as applied above in claim 22 and additionally discloses the wireless phone capable of receiving an emergency beacon activation command which includes a SMS text message (see column 6, lines 1-3 and column 9, lines 1-3).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

4. Claims 3, 14, 23, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beeson as applied to claims 1, 12, and 22 above, and further in view of Neher (U.S. Patent 6,362,778).

As to claim 3, Beeson discloses everything claimed as applied to claim 1 above; however, he does not explicitly recite a method comprising receiving, from a source, a first message have a first beacon activation command and activating a beacon and sending a message having a location information per the command.

In an analogous art, Neher teaches a method of sending a message having location information (see column 10, lines 56-61 and column 18, lines 29-35); thereby providing the source with the location information of the mobile unit. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify the method of Beeson by additionally sending a message detailing location information in response to a beacon activation command as taught by Neher for the purpose of providing the source with location information.

As to claim 14, Beeson discloses everything claimed as applied to claim 12 above; however, he is silent as to a computer-readable medium having the ability to send a message having location information to the source.

In an analogous art, Neher teaches a locator unit with a location device and processor within the unit (see column 12, lines 38-41). The location device provides location data to the processor that ensures the information is sent to the source requesting the location of the locator unit. In Figure 6, Neher teaches the connection and data path of the location information. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify the computer-readable medium disclosed by Beeson by additionally providing a processor the ability to provide a message with location information of the mobile unit to the source as taught by Neher.

As to claim 23, Beeson discloses everything as applied to claim 22 above; however, he is silent as to a wireless phone with a locator device within the phone connected to a beacon engine to embed location information in a beacon signal to a requesting source.

In an analogous art, Neher discloses a locator device (70) within a battery powered location device (see Figure 4) for generating an approximate position signal for the user terminal and means for transmitting the approximate position signal via a beacon device (72). Thus, it would have obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to construct a wireless phone as disclosed by Beeson to have a locator device possessing the ability to embed the phone's position data in the beacon signal in view of Neher.

As to claim 24, Beeson discloses everything as applied in claim 22 above; however, he does not disclose wireless phone with a locator device within the phone connected to a beacon engine to send location information in a message to a requesting source.

In an analogous art, Neher teaches a GPS unit connected to the communication system within the locator unit that communicates with the source and provides location information on command (see column 7, lines 61-66 and column 8, lines 2-7). Even though Neher does not disclose this system in a wireless phone, he discloses the architecture and relationship between

a GPS locator, processor, and a wireless transceiver (see Figure 4). The same architecture can be found in applicant's proposed wireless phone (see applicant's Figure 2). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to include a locator unit within a wireless phone as disclosed by Beeson by additionally providing a locator device within the mobile unit to determine the position of a mobile unit as taught by Neher.

5. Claims 20 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beeson as applied to claims 12 and 22 above, and further in view of Haartsen (U.S. Patent 5,870,673).

As to claim 20, Beeson discloses everything as applied to claim 12 above; however, he is silent as to a computer-readable medium determining to enter a power save mode, turning off a receiver in a wireless phone if save mode detected, and activating a beacon per power save beacon parameters.

In an analogous art, Haartsen discloses a power mode control circuit (58) within a mobile terminal (30) that places the mobile terminal in sleep mode to prohibit communication with a wireless network (see column 11, lines 62-66). Haartsen further teaches placing the power mode control circuit (30) in active mode in response to command from a beacon monitor circuit (56) (see column 12, lines 5-9). Haartsen also teaches that a power mode control circuit could be controlled by a microcontroller (see column 13, lines 31-34). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to have the computer-readable medium disclosed by Beeson additionally posses the ability to determine to enter a power save mode and turn off a receiver in a mobile unit if power save mode detected in order to conserve power as taught by Haartsen.

As to claim 30, Beeson discloses everything as applied to claim 22 above; however, he does not teach a wireless phone with a beacon engine, which has the ability to determine to enter a power save mode, if detected, and then to turn off a receiver in the transceiver and transmit a beacon per power save beacon parameters.

In an analogous art, Haartsen discloses a mobile terminal that posses a power control circuit with the means responsive to a beacon monitoring means, where the power control circuit has the ability to place the mobile terminal in a lower power sleep mode in which the mobile terminal does not communicate with a communications network; thereby conserving power of the mobile unit (see column 11, lines 62-66). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to construct a wireless phone as disclosed in Beeson to posses the ability to enter a power save mode, turn off the receiver in the transceiver if power save mode detected in order to conserve power as taught by Haartsen.

6. Claims 9 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beeson as applied to claims 1, 12, and 22 above, and further in view of Brickell (U.S. Patent 5,554,993).

As to claim 9, Beeson discloses everything as applied to claim 1; however, he does not disclose a method of, determining whether or not to enter a power save mode; if power save mode detected, turn off the receiver and set beacon parameters to save mode and activate the beacon based on save mode parameters.

In an analogous art, Brickell discloses a method of inhibiting the transmission of a homing beacon until the receipt of a activate beacon command (see column 3, lines 37-40), and a step of activating a low power continuous wave beacon (see column 6, lines 15-16 and column 9, lines 51-56). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time

invention was made to develop a method of receiving beacon commands and activating a beacon per the command as disclosed by Beeson and additionally requiring the method to determine if a power save mode is detected, to turn off the receiver and activate a beacon per power save parameters to conserve power as taught by Brickell.

As to claim 13, Beeson discloses everything as applied to claim12; however, he does not disclose a computer readable medium possessing the ability embedding the location of a mobile unit into a beacon.

In an analogous art, Brickell discloses a microprocessor commanding a transmitter to transmit a low power, continuous wave beacon once it receives an activate beacon command from a source and determines the location of the mobile unit (see column 6, lines 47-55). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have a computer readable medium possessing the ability of receiving a first message having a first beacon activation command, as disclosed by Beeson, also possessing the ability to embed the location of a mobile unit within a beacon as taught by Brickell.

7. Claims 2, 5-9, 16-19, 20, and 26-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beeson as applied to claims 1, 12, and 22 above, and further in view of Eagleson (U.S. Patent 6,7,65,484).

As to claim 2, Beeson discloses everything as applied to claim 1 above; however, he fails to disclose a method of embedding location information into a beacon.

In an analogous art, Eagleson teaches embedding a signpost code within a word transmitted by a beacon tag (see column 7, lines 15-22). The signpost code contains the location data of the mobile tag and is unique, thus identifying the location of the beacon tag. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to

develop a method as disclosed by Beeson and further limiting the method to embed the location information into a beacon as taught by Eagleson.

As to claim 5, Beeson discloses everything as applied to claim 1; however, he does not disclose a method of receiving a first message having a beacon activation command from a source that contains beacon parameters and activating a beacon per the command.

In an analogous art, Eagelson teaches a tag command field (43) that tells the beacon tag how to operate and how to send a beacon signal (see column 11, lines 58-67). Eagelson further teaches a control command field (44), which can instruct a beacon tag to change various parameters of a beacon, based on the command (see column 12, lines 19-22). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to develop a method as disclosed by Beeson and further limiting a beacon activation command to contain beacon parameters to change the characteristics of the beacon as taught by Eagleson.

As to claim 6, Beeson discloses everything as applied to claim 1 and Eagelson teaches everything as applied claim 5.

Eagleson further discloses the beacon tag can receive multiple beacon activation commands in succession and each command can possess different parameters (Figures 4 & 5). Eagleson also reveals that the beacon tag can change the parameters of the beacon signal based on the parameters received by the activation command (see column 12, lines 19-22). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to develop a method as disclosed by Beeson, a beacon activation command with parameters as taught by Eagleson, and further limiting the method to having a second beacon activation command with differing parameters from the first beacon activation command also taught by Eagleson.

As to claim 7, Beeson discloses everything as applied to claim 1 and Eagelson teaches everything as applied to claim 6.

Eagleson also teaches a beacon activation command from within a signpost command that may instruct the beacon tag to adjust the tag's beacon transmit power, frequency, and period (see column 12, lines 19-22). Eagleson provides an example of the varying levels in Figure 4. Examiner has interpreted cadence as frequency and duration as period. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to develop a method disclosed by Beeson, further limiting the method to accept a second beacon command with different parameters as taught by Eagleson, and further requiring the beacon parameters include beacon power, beacon cadence, and beacon duration as further taught by Eagleson.

As to claim 8, Beeson discloses everything as applied to claim 1; however, he does not teach a method in which if beacon parameters are not provided then default parameters are used.

In an analogous art, Eagleson teaches if a beacon tag does not receive a signpost signal or the signal does not contain a command, then the tag by default sends a beacon signal based on default parameters that consist of omitting information normally obtained from a signpost command (see column 7, lines 54-60). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to develop a method as disclosed by Beeson and further limiting the method to provide if beacon parameters are not provided then default parameters are used as taught by Eagelson.

As to claim 16, Beeson discloses everything as applied to claim 12; however, he fails to disclose a computer readable medium able to perform a method of receiving a first message having a first beacon activation command that includes beacon parameters.

In an analogous art, Eagleson discloses a microcontroller within the beacon tag that processes a received signpost signal (see column 11, lines 5-15) and the process of extracting the command signal (see Figure 6). As discussed previously, a command from a signpost can instruct the beacon tag to change any of the beacon signal's characteristics. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to have a computer readable medium disclosed by Beeson possess the ability to receive a first beacon activation command that includes beacon parameters as taught by Eagleson.

As to claim 17, Beeson discloses everything as applied to claim 1 and Eagelson teaches everything as applied claim 16.

Eagleson further discloses a microcontroller within the tag that processes a received signpost signal (see column 11, lines 5-15) and the process of extracting the command signal (see Figure 6). As discussed previously, a command from a signpost can instruct the beacon tag to change any of the beacon signal's characteristics. Also discussed previously, the signpost has the ability to send multiple commands with different parameters (see Figures 4 and 5). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to have a computer readable medium disclosed by Beeson, with the ability to receive a beacon activation command with parameters as taught by Eagleson, and further requiring the computer readable medium to having a second beacon activation command with differing parameters from the first beacon activation command also taught by Eagleson.

As to claim 18, Beeson discloses everything as applied to claim 12 and Eagleson teaches everything as applied to claim 17.

Eagleson further discloses a beacon activation command from within a signpost command that may instruct the beacon tag to adjust the tag's beacon transmit power, frequency, and period (see column 12, lines 19-22). Eagleson provides an example of the

varying levels in Figure 4. Examiner has interpreted cadence as frequency and duration as period. It has also been discussed that Eagleson discloses a microcontroller within the tag that processes a received signpost signal (see column 11, lines 5-15) and the process of extracting the command signal (see Figure 6). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to have a computer readable medium disclosed by Beeson, with the ability to receive second beacon activation commands taught by Eagleson, further requiring the beacon parameters include beacon power, beacon cadence, and beacon duration also taught by Eagleson.

As to claim 19, Beeson discloses everything as applied to claim 12; however, he does not teach a computer readable medium receiving a first message with first beacon activation command in which no beacon parameters are provided and the default parameters are used.

In an analogous art, Eagleson teaches if a beacon tag does not receive a signpost signal or the signal does not contain a command, then the tag by default sends a beacon signal based on default parameters that consist of omitting information normally obtained from a signpost command (see column 7, lines 54-60). Eagleson further discloses that the information extracted from the command is provided to the microcontroller in (see column 6, lines 4-5) and possesses the ability to transmit a beacon signal in (see column 6, lines 20-21). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to have a computer readable medium as disclosed by Beeson, posses the ability to use default beacon parameters when beacon parameters are not provided as taught by Eagelson.

As to claim 26, Beeson discloses everything as applied to claim 22; however, he does not disclose a wireless phone with the capability of receiving a first beacon activation command including beacon parameters and where a beacon engine transmits the beacon according to the parameters.

In an analogous art, Eagleson discloses a beacon tag (Figure 1) having a receiver, micro-controller, transmitter, timer, and power supply; comprising all of the essential components disclosed by Beeson. Eagleson's beacon tag can process a beacon command with beacon parameters (see column 12, lines 1-22) with the microcontroller discussed (see column 6, lines 4-5) in relation to claims 16-19. It would have been obvious at the time of invention was made to construct a wireless phone disclosed by Beeson to receive a first beacon activation command wherein it includes beacon parameters and the beacon engine transmit the beacon based on parameters provided as taught by Eagelson.

As to claim 27, Beeson discloses everything as applied to claim 22 and Eagleson teaches everything as applied to claim 26.

Eagleson also teaches a beacon tag can process, via a microcontroller (see column 6, lines 4-6), a second beacon command with second beacon parameters using the analogous components (see Figure 2) disclosed in the wireless phone by Beeson. Therefore, it would have been obvious at the time of invention was made to construct a wireless phone disclosed by Beeson, to receive beacon activation commands with beacon parameters as taught by Eagleson, to further require the ability to receive a second beacon activation command wherein it includes second beacon parameters and the wireless phone transmit the beacon based the second parameters provided as taught Eagelson.

As to claim 28, Beeson discloses everything as applied to claim 22 and Eagleson teaches everything as applied to claim 27.

Eagleson further teaches a mobile unit with the capabilities as discussed and applied to claims 26 and 27 also possessing the capability of processing a beacon activation command from within a signpost command that may instruct the beacon tag to adjust the tag's beacon transmit power, frequency, and period (see column 12, lines 19-22). The varying levels are

shown in Figure 4. Examiner has interpreted cadence as frequency and duration as period. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made construct a wireless phone as disclosed by Beeson, possessing the capability of receiving and processing beacon activation commands with either first or second parameters as taught by Eagleson, and further requiring the beacon parameters include beacon power, beacon cadence, and beacon duration also taught by Eagleson.

As to claim 29, Beeson discloses a wireless phone as applied to claim 22; however, he does not teach a wireless phone capable of receiving a first message with first beacon activation command in which default parameters are used when beacon parameters are not provided.

In an analogous art, Eagleson teaches if a beacon tag does not receive a signpost signal or the signal does not contain a command, then the tag by default sends a beacon signal based on default parameters that consist of omitting information normally obtained from a signpost command (see column 7, lines 54-60). Eagleson also discloses that the information extracted from the command is provided to the microcontroller (see column 6, lines 4-5) and possesses the ability to transmit a beacon signal (see column 6, lines 20-21). The wireless phone disclosed by Beeson contains a microprocessor performing the same functions as Eagleson's microcontroller. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to construct a wireless phone as disclosed by Beeson, further requiring when beacon parameters are not provided that default parameters are to be used as taught by Eagleson.

8. Claims 4, 15, and 25 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beeson as applied to claims 1, 12, and 22 above, and further in view of Siddiqui (U.S. Patent 6,292, 666).

Regarding claim 4, Beeson discloses everything as applied to claim 1; however, he fails to disclose a method comprising of receiving a first message with first beacon activation command and displaying a warning of pending beacon activation.

In an analogous art, Siddiqui discloses a method for displaying a warning indicator along with transmitting distance and country identity, prior to entering neighboring country, when the source indicates to do so via a location update acknowledgement message (column 6, lines 19-23). The location update acknowledgement message is a command sent to a mobile unit (MS 20) including the ability to warn the user of new location and notify the user that a system is communication with the mobile unit. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention was made to develop a method disclosed by Beeson and displaying a warning of pending beacon activation as taught by Siddiqui.

Regarding claim 15, Beeson discloses everything as applied to claim 12; however, he fails to disclose a computer readable medium having the capability of receiving a first message with first beacon activation command and displaying a warning of pending beacon activation.

In an analogous art, Siddiqui discloses a method for displaying a warning indicator along with transmitting distance and country identity, prior to entering neighboring country, when the source indicates to do so via a location update acknowledgement message (column 6, lines 19-23). The location update acknowledgement message is a command sent to a mobile unit (MS 20) including the ability to warn the user of new location and notify the user that a system is communication with the mobile unit. Siddiqui also teaches the mobile unit (MS 20) consists of memory (27) for storing information transmitted in Figure 5. It would have been obvious to one

skilled in the art at the time of invention was made to develop a computer readable medium disclosed by Beeson and further requiring it to display a warning of pending beacon activation as taught by Siddiqui.

Regarding claim 25, Beeson discloses everything as applied to claim 22; however, he fails to disclose a wireless phone having the capability receiving a first message with first beacon activation command and displaying a warning of pending beacon activation.

In an analogous art, Siddiqui discloses a method for displaying a warning indicator along with transmitting distance and country identity, prior to entering neighboring country, when the source indicates to do so via a location update acknowledgement message (column 6, lines 19-23). The location update acknowledgement message is a command sent to a mobile unit (MS 20) including the ability to warn the user of new location and notify the user that a system is communication with the mobile unit. Beeson does disclose a wireless phone with a display interface in Figure 2. Siddiqui's wireless phone (MS 20) also comprises a display interface (202) providing the capability of displaying warning messages to the user. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention was made to develop a wireless phone disclosed by Beeson and further requiring it to display a warning of pending beacon activation as taught by Siddiqui.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Olivia Marsh whose telephone number is 703-308-4563. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday during 8am-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marsh Banks-Harold can be reached on 703-305-4379. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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9/7/04
LESTER G. KINCAID
PRIMARY EXAMINER